

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00084 221729Z

62

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 /084 W

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R 221300Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4342

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0084

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS :PFOR,SF,RH

SUBJ :MULDER CISIT TO RHODESIA CALLED OFF

REF :A) CAPE TOWN 0066; B) CAPE TOWN 0044

1. SCHEDULED THREE-DAY VISIT TO RHODESIAN BY SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND INFORMATION, DR.C.P.MULDER(REF A), WAS POSTPONED SHORTLY BEFORE HE WAS DUE TO LEAVE FOR SALISBURY JANUARY 21. ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE AFTER MEETING BETWEEN MULDER AND PRIME MINISTER VORSTER.

2. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENT ISSUED JAN 21, VISIT TO RHODESIA NO LONGER NECESSARY IN VIEW OF 'DISCUSSIONS' YESTERDAY IN SALISBURY BETWEEN RHODESIAN GOVT OFFICIALS AND THE ANC, AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL
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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00084 221729Z

INFORMATION JUST RECEIVED.' STATEMENT ADDED THAT MULDER

HAD INFORMED SALISBURY OF POSTPONEMENT AND THAT 'RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS AND APPRECIATES THE DECISION.'

3. CAPE TIMES REPORTS JAN 22 THAT SPOKESMAN FOR RHODESIAN GOVT SAID POSTPONEMENT RESULTED FROM TELEPHONE DISCUSSION BETWEEN MULDER AND RHODESIAN INFORMATION MINISTER WICKUS DE KOCK. ACCORDING SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION REPORT, DE KOCK SAID CANCELLATION DUE TO 'SPECULATION AND CONFUSION' ABOUT VISIT IN PRESS. SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS HAD SPECULATED THAT MAJOR TOPIC OF DISCUSSION DURING MULDER VISIT WOULD BE RHODESIAN GOVT CONCERN OVER ATTITUDE OF PRO-GOVERNMENT, AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPERS REGARDING MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA (REF B). ADDITIONAL SPECULATION WAS THAT MULDER WAS BEING SENT TO PUT PRESSURE ON RHODESIAN GOVT.

4. COMMENT: IT UNCLEAR WHICH GOVT INITIATED PLANS FOR VISIT AND WHICH SQUASHED THEM. IN ANY EVENT, BOTH SAG AND RHODESIAN GOVT EVIDENTLY WISH TO MINIMIZE UNNECESSARY SPECULATION AND COMPLICATIONS, WHICH MULDER VISIT COULD HAVE GENERATED, AT TIME WHEN THERE APPARENTLY ARE RENEWED DISCUSSIONS TAKING PLACE BETWEEN AFRICAN NATIONALISTS AND RHODESIAN OFFICIALS.

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